



Press Release

Public Affairs Section

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U.S. Ambassador and Peruvian Ministers of Defense and Interior Inaugurate Improved Facilities at VRAE Special Command Headquarters in Pichari, Cusco

Lima, September 9, 2011. U.S. Ambassador to Peru Rose M. Likins accompanied Peruvian Minister of Defense Daniel Mora and Minister of the Interior Oscar Valdez to Pichari, Cusco Region, to participate in the inauguration ceremony of upgraded facilities at the Valley of the Apurimac and Ene Rivers (VRAE) Special Command Headquarters. Complementing the significant Peruvian investment in the expanded facility, the United States provided more than U.S. \$1.8 million to fund the construction of a multi-purpose building at the main base facility as well as two troop barracks, supporting facilities, and a command post at the Navy Annex. The U.S. contribution is part of U.S. support for Peru's efforts to combat drug traffickers and narco-terrorists in the VRAE through improved military-police cooperation to enhance citizen security and promote economic development.

Ministers Mora and Valdez and Ambassador Likins were received at the base by General de Division Victor Montes Barrios, Commander of CE-VRAE. The visit included a tour of base facilities, a briefing on operations, and remarks by the Minister and Ambassador marking the formal inauguration of the upgraded facilities. In her remarks, Ambassador Likins commended Peru's leadership in the fight against drug trafficking and narco-terrorists in the VRAE and pledged continued U.S. support for these efforts. She underscored the close cooperation between Peru and the United States to help improve security and economic development in the region.

U.S. counter-narcotics support to Peru in the VRAE this year includes the upgrade of two Peruvian River Interdiction Units and floating maintenance facilities. This year the United States will also provide non-lethal support to the Peruvian military in the form of explosives detection equipment, personnel protection equipment, and boats.

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